Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /091 W

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UNESCO: CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 272689

1. PAST EXPERIENCE IN UNESCO HAS SHOWN THAT LDC'S GENERALLY HAVE BEEN OUT IN FRONT IN PRESSING FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS. IF ANYTHING, THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT PAYMENT OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS. STATES FINDING DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THEIR OBLIGATIONS KNOW THAT UNDER ARTICLE IV.C, PARAGRAPH 8 (C) OF UNESCO'S CONSTITUTION, THEY MAY STILL RETAIN THEIR VOTE AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, EVEN AFTER FALLING MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN ARREARS. THIS IS DONE SIMPLY BY A VOTE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PLENARY, WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, REACTED FAVORABLY TO FORMAL REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND BY EL SALVADOR, AT THE 19TH GENERALCONFERENCE. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY THIRD WORLD STATE INVOKING THIS PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION, WOULD BE DENIED.

2. ONLY OTHER MEMBERS MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN ARREARS AT OPENING OF THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (FALL, 1976) WERE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (WHICH HAD NOT PAID SINCE 1967-68), NICARAGUA (STILL IN ARREARS FOR

1973-74), CHAD (NO PAYMENT SINCE 1971-72), AND PARAGUAY (WHICH HAD NOT PAID SINCE 1965-66).

- 3. PERM DEL FULLY AGREES WITH REFTEL THAT IT DIFFICULT TO MEASURE THE FINANCIAL STRAIN ON LDC'S OF THEIR MONETARY OBLIGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. DELOFF WHO SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN BURUNDI -- ONE OF THE POOREST OF THE POOR -- RECALLS THAT BURUNDI HAS ALWAYS PAID ITS OBLIGATIONS FULLY AND PROMPTLY. NONETHELESS, ANY DRAIN ON ITS HARD CURRENCY RESERVES WAS A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. NOTWITHSTANDING, WE HAVE NOT HEARD LDC'S COMPLAINING, FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VIETNAM) ABOUT THE BURDEN IMPOSED BY THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO.
- 4. WE SHOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE 1977-78
 BIANNUAL OBLIGATION FOR A POOREST MEMBER STATE IS
 DOLLARS 43,260, OR .02 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGET.
 IT IS PROBABLE, HOWEVER, THAT UNESCO WILL SOON ADOPT
 A .01 PERCENT MINIMUM SCALE FOR ITS POOREST MEMBERS,
 FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS,
 WHICH WOULD RESULT IN AN ASSESSMENT DURING CURRENT
 BIENNIUM OF 21,630 DOLLARS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT
 THIS COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS GENERALLY SETS THE
 STANDARDS FOR MEMBER STATES OF THE UN SYSTEM, AND
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IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS HAS ACCESS TO AN ARRAY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS. IT WAS SUGGESTED TO US THAT WE SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT FROM THAT COMMITTEE.

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